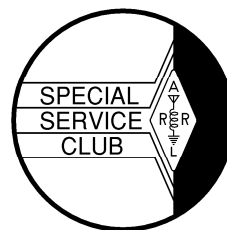




SIGNAL



de NINC

October 2005 Volume 14 Number 10

This Month's Meeting

The next meeting is October 20th. The program is a QSL Card Sort for the W1 Incoming QSL Bureau. This is the presort stage where incoming QSL cards get sorted based on the first letter of the receiving callsign suffix. There are twenty-six "letter" sorters that get the cards next and then sort them down to the individual.

The Club will provide pizza and soft drinks after we finish sorting.

ARRL members can give your outgoing QSL cards to Bob W1XP and the club will pick up the cost of getting them to the League.

The updates for the Yearbook will be available.

Last Month's Meeting

Last months meeting was September 15th which was the first of our fall regular meeting schedule. The meeting program was "How to Develop Low Cost Printed Circuit Boards using PC ExpressPCB" by Les N1SV. Les has used it to layout boards for the sound card interface. Les had examples of several boards he had designed and had fabricated.

We distributed the update to the Yearbook at the meeting. This update is more than 30 new or replacement pages. The update includes an updated Members section. The Activities section was expanded to cover up through last year and was printed in color. Ralph researched all the past newsletters and produced three article indexes listed by Author, Newsletter Issue, and Article Title which was added to section 5. Stan converted all the newsletters back through 1995 to PDF format and Les N1SV indexed them on the Website as a re-

source for people looking for vintage copies. The updates will be available through the next regular meeting.

Due to the dollar figure (unchanged) the payment of the club Insurance premium was brought to the floor and payment approved.

John noted that he is looking for Volunteers to support the soccer tournament which is rapidly approaching in October.

Stan, presented Field Day pins to everyone who participated in the 2005 Field Day. The following people received or will receive a Field Day pin. Anthony WB1CUF, Debbie KA1LEQ, Doug KB1JCY, Daniel N1KJN, Erik W1ZBT, John WW1Z, Dave N1MNX, Leo K1LK, Joel W1JMM, Wolf KA1VOU, Jim N8VIM Les, N1SV, Bob AB1CV, Bob W1XP, John KB1HDO, Larry KB1ESR, Ralph KD1SM, Peter N1ZRG, Bruce K1BG, Stan KD1LE.



Courtesy KD1SM

He also presented Certificates of Appreciation to several members for their extraordinary support of our 2005 Field Day.



Bob AB1CV received a Certificate for staffing the Field Day Mess, providing over 30 gallons of liquid refreshments critical to the participant's well being during the extreme heat, cookies and helped at both setup and takedown.

Larry KB1ESR received a certificate noting his staffing the Field Day Mess, providing food for the troops, power for the radios, and a GOTA station complete with operator (Debbie).

Leo K1LK was presented a certificate (to be delivered) for being involved in every part of the NVARC Field Day effort from beginning to end. Leo brought his tractor up to mow, was there for set up, take-down, and several trips for tools and parts to fix what broke during setup. Leo also supplied fans for the stations a great help with the high temperatures.

Ralph gave the Treasurers report.

The winners of the Book Raffle: AB1CV & KB1ESR - PowerPole connectors

In attendance were Phil KB1JKL, John KB1HDO, Dennis K1LGQ, Hank KB1JLA, Bob AB1CV, Joel W1JMM, Bob W1XP, Earl WR1Y, Larry KB1ESR, Daniel N1KJN, Don AB1DS, Ken K1JKR, Don N1HVA, Dick KB1MBR, Ralph KD1SM, Dave N1MNX, Stan KD1LE, Wolf KA1VOU, Gary K1YTS, Les N1SV, Pete KB1LZH, Marcos ZZ3FVD, and Dale Sinclair.

NVARC Welcomes New Members

NVARC welcomes three new members who joined at the September meeting.

Peter Barbella KB1LZH Littleton

Marcos Dias ZZ3FVD Lowell

Dale Sinclair Pepperell no call yet

Keep an eye out for the new members as they may need help regarding licensing or setting up equipment.

From the President

Everyone knows that Katrina was a devastating storm. What I didn't expect that amateur communications would also be so significantly curtailed. The number of stations on the air on the Amateur and MARS bands has been very small. The one two punch of hurricane winds and flooding totally destroyed large areas. People in those areas would have lost their homes, equipment and antennas so getting back on the air would be near impossible not even considering the lack of electricity. But in areas that were not flooded such as the non-coastal areas, the conditions would have been better. The major problem there may be a lack of power. In the interest of emergency communications I would encourage everyone to think about how you would get back on the air after such an event. The first area to work on is operating without commercial power. Think Field Day. This is probably the easiest case to deal with. If the problem is just a power failure there is no threat to life and property for the general population. This can happen without any warning or other damage as in the blackouts that we have experienced or with some warning as in ice storms and hurricanes. Radios that run on 12 volts solve this problem simply. A deep cycle battery or in an emergency your auto battery could get you back on the air.

Having the ability to get on the air and stay there for at least 72 hours seems to be a minimum requirement. In a large storm like Katrina you may be isolated for more than a week which hard to imagine in our mobile and bustling communities. But so was New Orleans.

Spare antennas and the ability to get them in the air is the next area. Wind and ice storms can cause significant damage affecting our outdoor equipment. Spare antennas don't have to cost a lot of money. You don't need HF antennas that could work the Maldives or Australia. A few hundred miles is adequate. Some string and an Inverted vee dipole will do it. Even for UHF/VHF there are designs for emergency or portable antennas that are simple and inexpensive to build.

The idea is spend a little time now getting ready so that when the need arises you can stay on the air or get back on the air.

Stan KD1LE

Adopt A Highway

The last road cleanup was September 18th. Thanks to Ralph KD1SM for running this event. Helping out at the cleanup were Ralph KD1SM, Earl WR1Y and Larry KB1ESR.

The next cleanup will be Sunday October 23rd.

We meet at the Nashua River common at 9:00 AM. Our clean up day is the Sunday after the club meeting.

Preparing for the ISS Contact at Hawthorne Brook School

We were asked to provide communications support for a contact with the International Space Station (ISS) by the Hawthorne Brook Middle School in Townsend.

This is a great public relations opportunity for amateur radio and NVARC. Several members volunteered to put together an antenna system and radios capable of tracking the ISS.

After some correspondence with the ARRL on what was required the idea was proposed at the September club meeting. There was unanimous support for moving forward and six people committed to work on the project.

Volunteering to support this event were Bob W1XP, Joel W1JMM, Larry KB1ESR, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, Gary K1YTS,

Below is a picture of the antenna tracking system for the ISS contact. On the left is the azimuth and ele-

vation rotators (AZ-EL). In the center is the rotator control box and on top of it is the computer to control box interface. On the right is the computer with the tracking software window above and the control interface software window below.



Courtesy KD1LE

Below is a picture of the antennas we will use. On the left is a circularly polarized 22 element antenna and in the front center is a 14 element antenna.



Courtesy KD1LE

We also need a reasonable gain vertical antenna and some other bits that are not yet defined. We hope to have the first system together this week and be able to track objects with it. NASA requires there be two independent stations available in case of failures though the second station need only use a vertical antenna (requested above).

The schools contact has been set during the week of November 28th.

Board Meeting Notes

The Board Meeting took place October 13th. In attendance were Ralph KD1SM, John KB1HDO, Stan KD1LE, Bob W1XP, Joel W1JMM and Les N1SV, and Peter N1ZRG.

Items discussed included

Received Special Service Club Certificate from ARRL

Speakers and Programs for the Fall

Status of the ARISS contact work.

Ralph gave the Treasurers Report

Nice to have a Field Day chairperson and site choice by December

Food approved for meeting

Groton 350th Parade



Heading up this segment of the Groton 350th parade is our own Bob AB1CV. If you look closely at his right side hung from a strap is an APRS Tracker unit. The goal was to be able to know where the front of each of the seven segments of the parade were.



Minutemen fire a volley for the crowd on the parade route.

Working the event were Larry KB1ESR, John KB1HDO, Joel W1JMM, Dave N1MNX, Bob AB1CV, and Ralph KD1SM.

Pepperell Soccer Tournament

Over the Columbus Day weekend, NVARC fielded a crew of radio operators to provide a Health-and-Safety net at the Pepperell Annual Fall Classic soccer tournament.



Above L-R Stan KD1LE, Ken K1JKR, John KB1HDO, and Larry KB1ESR

Saturday's downpours proved a good test for our ability to shield our radio equipment from the elements. While the weather was pretty miserable, the kids clearly had fun playing in the mud, and the rain didn't dampen their enthusiasm for the game. Ten NVARC members participated, as well as three non-members - Debbie KA1LEQ (who ran the GOTA

station during Field Day), Brian KB3AWM, who saw the tournament advertised on the KD1SM/KD1LE PSLIST, and Jonathan N1JGA who lives in Pepperell. In all, over 110 person-hours were spent patrolling the soccer fields.



A variety of illnesses and unexpected problems prevented a larger turnout of operators this year, but those who reported for duty redoubled their efforts to provide effective coverage. We are happy to report that there were no serious injuries despite the conditions, and no ambulance calls were necessary. Thanks to all who helped out! Participating NVARC members were Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, Larry KB1ESR, John KB1HDO, Gary K1YTS, Nancy KB1KEF, Russ WR1Y, Ken K1JKR, Hank KB1JLA, and Dale Sinclair (a new member who is not yet licensed) who helped break down the net control station at the end of the tournament.

Thanks, John

Flea Markets and Such

October

7- 8 Hosstraders Hopkinton NH
9 CT State Convention Wallingford CT
16 MIT Swapfest Cambridge MA

November

5 Interstate Repeater Society Londonderry NH
12 FARAFAEST Falmouth MA

August 2006

25-27 Boxboro/ARRL NE Convention

PSLIST

Date Contact	Location Tel/Email	Event
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Oct 8-10 John KB1HDO	Pepperell MA 978-772-5406 to 10 kb1hdo@verizon.net	Fall Soccer Tournament
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Oct 21-23 Jeff N1FWV to 23	Cambridge RWJeffA@comcast.net	Head of the Charles Regatta
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Advertisements

Tell them you saw it in the Signal. Advertisers should contact the NVARC Treasurer for information.

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Treasurers Report

Last month the banner over the Treasurers Report incorrectly said July. The report was in fact Ralph's September report.

Income for September was \$126 in membership dues, \$11.07 from bank savings interest, and \$18 from the book raffle (which was placed into the PowerPole connector account.) Expenses were \$14.80 for newsletter postage and \$255 for the annual liability insurance premium leaving a net expense of \$114.73 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	\$4399.84
Community fund	\$2079.95



Welcome to new members Peter Barbella KB1LZH of Littleton, Marcos Dias ZZ3FVD of Lowell and Dale Sinclair of Pepperell. All three joined at the September meeting, bringing us over the 60 member mark.

As of 12 October we have 61 current members and three renewals outstanding. Please check your newsletter mailing label for your expiration date or look for the email reminder I send you if you are overdue.

Remember, you can renew your ARRL membership through the Club and save yourself a stamp. You also help the Club treasury as the ARRL lets the Club keep a portion of any new or renewal membership sent through us. Make your check out to NVARC and hand it to me at the Club meeting with your ARRL membership renewal form or your membership number.

NVARC Club Net

The club net has been meeting on the 442.900 repeater. Recent participants include Dave N1MNX, Bob W1XP, Bob AB1CV, Joel W1JMM, John KB1HDO, Larry KB1ESR, Skip K1NKR, Gary K1YTS, Ralph KD1SM, Stan KD1LE and Don AB1DS, Peter KB1LZH, and Dick KB1MBR.

The net is a good place to bring information for the club and questions or discussions. The net meets at 8:00 PM Monday evenings on the 442.900 N1MNX repeater.

ARRL Letter

ARRL COO TESTIFIES ON CAPITOL HILL TO AMATEUR RADIO'S VALUE IN DISASTERS

ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, testified on behalf of the League September 29 before the US House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Addressing the hearing topic, "Public Safety Communications from 9/11 to Katrina: Critical Public Policy Lessons," Kramer reiterated and amplified comments ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, delivered earlier this month to the House Government Reform Committee. As Haynie did on September 15, Kramer testified on the successful efforts of Amateur Radio operators who provided communications during the Hurricane Katrina response.

"Amateur Radio was uniquely suited to this task by virtue of the availability of HF communications covering long distances without fixed infrastructure," Kramer pointed out in his testimony. In addition to those who responded to support relief agencies in hurricane-devastated areas, thousands more radio amateurs outside the affected area monitored radio traffic and relayed health-and-welfare messages, he said.

Kramer noted that there's been a lot of discussion in recent years about public safety interoperability. "The Amateur Radio Service provides a good deal of interoperability communications for first responders in disaster relief incidents," he told the subcommittee. He said ham radio is able to fill this crucial role because even the "interoperability channels" that exist in most Public Safety allocations are useless when the Public Safety communication infrastructure goes down.

"Interoperability, in short, presumes operability of Public Safety facilities," Kramer said. "While some 'hardening' of Public Safety facilities is called for, there is in our view an increasing role for decentralized, portable Amateur Radio stations which are not infrastructure-dependent in providing interoperability communication on site."

Kramer told Subcommittee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and his House colleagues that Amateur Radio "is largely invisible to both the FCC and to Congress on a daily basis, because it is virtually self-regulating and self-administered," he said. "It is only during emergencies that the Amateur Radio Service is in the spotlight." Also testifying at the subcommittee session was FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin, and Kramer said he had the opportunity to introduce himself to the chairman before the subcommittee convened.

Kramer said he was honored to be chosen to provide the testimony on behalf of the ARRL. "I am proud of Amateur Radio's and our role in the Katrina relief effort," he added.

The text of Kramer's remarks before the subcommittee are available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/09/30/2/>>.

ARRL ANNOUNCES 2005 TOY DRIVE FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS

In the wake of unprecedented hurricane devastation in the Gulf Coast region, the ARRL has announced it will again sponsor a toy drive to brighten the holidays for youngsters left homeless or displaced as a

result of the storms. Country singer and ARRL member Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, has agreed to serve as honorary chairperson for the 2005 toy drive. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, is urging the Amateur Radio community to pitch in.

"Last year, hams from all over the country brought smiles to children during the holidays," Haynie said. "We made a lot of friends, and we did a lot of good. No one expected that we would need to do it again so soon, but the recent hurricanes' destruction changed the plans of a lot of people."

Last year, individual radio amateurs and clubs across the US joined together to collect new toys for youngsters affected by a series of four hurricanes in Florida. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says the 2004 effort was a success beyond anyone's wildest dreams, and there was no question in his mind about doing another toy drive for the latest hurricane victims.

"Not only can it be done, it really must be done. It is simply the right thing to do," he said. "We are asking hams from all over the country to begin gathering new toys for shipment to Memphis, Tennessee. ARRL Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, has secured a receiving warehouse and is recruiting ham volunteers there."

Ham radio clubs and individual amateurs should send new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls aged 1 to 14 to ARRL Toy Drive, 1775 Moriah Woods Blvd—Suite 12, Memphis, TN 38117-7125. Plan mailings and shipments to arrive prior to Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 24, for distribution over the holidays.

"Just as we did last year, we are asking the donors to please put a QSL card into the box with the toy," Pitts added. Non-hams are encouraged to join this effort too.

"Early in December, we will divide the toys among the various agencies and states that need help the most at that point in time," Pitts explained. "We are making these arrangements so that we can maximize the areas receiving aid while maintaining the unique identity that this is the Amateur Radio Community's response."

Pitts says he's heard from many Amateur Radio clubs that are already gathering toys together. "Please check with your local club and see if they are planning a mass shipment," he urged. "If not, perhaps you can help organize one for your area."

Monetary donations to purchase new toys for special age groups and to help cover operational expenses also are welcome. Those wishing to donate money instead of toys can send a check to ARRL Toy Drive, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

AMATEUR RADIO EARNING PRAISE, RESPECT IN HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF

Amateur Radio is continuing to earn praise and respect as the Hurricane Katrina relief effort moves forward. Donated Amateur Radio equipment and supplies arriving at the American Red Cross Hurricane Katrina relief staging area in Montgomery, Alabama, have been turned around as quickly as possible to accompany volunteers into the field. A team headed by Alabama ARRL Section Manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, now has been on duty for some three weeks, overseeing Amateur Radio volunteer intake and registration and trying to satisfy the ever-changing requirements of the Red Cross and other served agencies.

"The American Red Cross and other served agencies are very thankful and appreciative that we are helping them out," Sarratt said this week. "I have talked with several ARC folks who said they could not operate without us!"

ARES and MARS member Matt Hackman, KB1FUP, was among a Rhode Island contingent processed through the Montgomery marshaling center. The New England volunteers were able to take advantage of the newly donated handheld transceivers, HF transceivers and antennas for use in and around Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Hackman said Red Cross personnel were using VHF simplex to keep in contact with each shelter.

"We still have no potable public water and no land-line telephones," Hackman said this week, adding that cell phone service was intermittent. "I hope I am helping in some small way," he went on to say. "People further west still have no power, no water—even for flushing toilets—and the emergency workers are in tents with no washing facilities, living on MREs. I have it good."

Sarratt said his staging area has been slowing down the pipeline of available Amateur Radio volunteers because the need for operators is decreasing. He reports the Montgomery marshaling center has registered more than 100 Amateur Radio volunteers. Those still in the pipeline will replace operators already on the ground in affected areas when they rotate out, he said. Sarratt rescinded an urgent call

for operators put out over the September 10-11 weekend.

The best estimate is that some 1000 Amateur Radio volunteers have helped out or are still serving in hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast communities and at evacuee centers there and in other states. While prospective volunteers have been told to stand by for now, that situation could change as restricted areas are reopened and as replacement operators are needed.

Amateur Radio has been the primary means of contact with the outside world for shelters that still lack reliable communication. An HF station at the Montgomery Red Cross staging area, N4AP, has been frequenting 3.965 and 7.280 MHz to keep in touch with other Red Cross shelters and kitchens throughout the region.

"We have deployed many great Amateur Radio operators to the field," Sarratt remarked. "Guys have traveled from all over the USA on their own dime to do the right thing and help others. I'm very proud of them." Sarratt said several "shining stars" in the field have made the volunteer effort work well and "kept Amateur Radio looking great."

ARRL Louisiana Acting Section Emergency Coordinator Al Oubre, K5DPG, reports that telephone and cell service around the state is slowly being restored, and Louisiana does not need additional help at this time. A Red Cross marshaling center remains open in Covington. Oubre said when St Bernard and Jefferson parishes dry out sufficiently, the Red Cross will then be able to move into that area and set up support services. At that point, he anticipates that more Amateur Radio volunteers may be needed.

Radio amateurs from Florida have been helping at the temporary Hancock County, Mississippi, emergency operations center at Stennis Airport. The county lost its EOC in the hurricane. Randy Pierce, AG4UU, said radio amateurs are serving as communicators and dispatchers for all the services at the EOC—including the fire department and emergency medical services. County officials and agencies have been very complimentary about Amateur Radio, he said.

South Texas Section Emergency Coordinator Jerry Reimer, KK5CA, reports Amateur Radio is continuing to support sheltering operations at the Houston Astrodome, but other shelters in Houston have closed or been consolidated.

In Rains County, Texas, some 60 miles east of Dallas, ARES/RACES member T.W. Ivey, K5IJT, reported his team has been keeping in contact with the county EOC via VHF repeater.

In Tullahoma, Tennessee, Jimmy Floyd, NQ4U, has been among a group of operators helping to staff a communications/command center for an operation housing 170 evacuees. "We have also been active in communicating with other shelters on HF and attempting to locate family and friends of the evacuees," Floyd said.

Amateur Radio operators concluded a shelter support operation at Oklahoma's Camp Gruber. "We were the communications backbone between responding agencies," said Mark Conklin, N7XYO. "We also passed tons of traffic, ranging from requests for water and food, supplies and bedding. In fact, Amateur Radio was the 911 system on Camp Gruber for many days."

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) Liaison Officer Jeff Schneller, N2HPO, says TSA canteens are holding with their present complement of ham radio volunteers and may not rotate them out of service. "As operators need to leave, we may just scale down," he told ARRL. "We thank all those who are assisting and were willing to assist." He also thanked the American Red Cross for referring radio operators to SATERN.

SATERN volunteers Steve Hicks, N5AC, and John Beadles, N5OOM, are supporting a canteen operation in Waveland. "We drove up and down several streets, and everyone we talked to said they had not had a hot meal in a while," Hicks said in a PACTOR dispatch to Schneller. Hicks said they continue to ask about H&W traffic, "but based on what we have seen, I think it unlikely that we will have any traffic to run."

SATERN has continued monitoring 7.288 MHz and 3.965 MHz each half hour throughout the day and evening. In addition, the SATERN Net activates daily at 1400 UTC on 14.265 MHz.

Jim Aylward, KC8PD, just returned to Ohio this week from volunteering in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. "Even though we all prepare for events we hope never occur, the hams I worked with from all over the country demonstrated that 'When all else fails, Amateur Radio is there' is a lot more than a slogan," he said. "It was the reality for thousands of people who needed effective emergency communication. When my shelter manager, who had never worked

with hams before, told me that I had been a god-send, I was moved."

Contest Calendar and DXpeditions

The information for a DXpedition can be quite detailed and may include bands, dates, number of stations, and times of day they plan to work certain continents so I can not list it all here. But if a country or prefix is of interest you can get more information at www.425dxn.org.

Contests November

5-7 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW
19-21 ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone

December

2-4 ARRL 160 Meter Contest
10-11 ARRL 10 Meter Contest

January

1 Straight Key Night
7-8 ARRL RTTY Roundup
8-9 North American QSO Party
21-23 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

February

5-6 Delaware QSO Party
18-19 ARRL International DX Contest

DXpeditions

Call	Location	Until
9V1CW	Singapore	2008
8Q7WP	Maldives	09/05
5H3HK	Tanzania	March 2006
SU8BHI	Egypt	31 Dec 2005
T68G	Afghanistan	March 2007
ZD8I	Ascension Is	March 2006

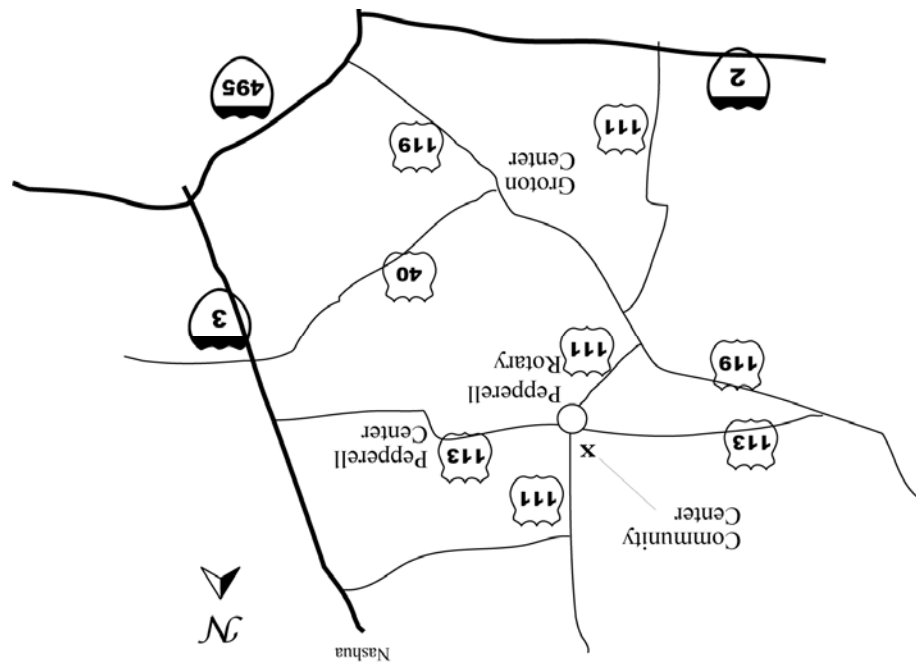


Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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Vice President: Peter Nordberg N1ZRG
Secretary: John Griswold KB1HDO
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
Board Members:
Dave Peabody: N1MNX 2003-2006
Bob Reif: W1XP 2004-2007
Les Peters: N1SV 2005-2008
Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
Emergency Coordinator: Den Connors KD2S
Photographer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
PIO: Dave Peabody N1MNX
Librarian: Peter Nordberg N1ZRG
Property Master: John Griswold KB1HDO
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Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month
- 7:30 p.m. - Pepperell Community Ctr. Talk-in
146.490 simplex
442.900 + 100Hz Repeater
147.345 + 100 Hz Repeater
53.890 - 100Hz Repeater
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